



# 1999-2000 Annual Report



Front Cover: Scatter Wash near 35th Avenue and Loop 101 Freeway

Photo taken by Jeremy Pearlman



1959 - 1999

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County was organized on August 3, 1959, pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes. Our formation followed the passage in March, 1959, of legislation which empowered counties to set up special district for the purpose of providing flood control for metropolitan, urban, and agricultural areas in Maricopa County to prevent the flooding of property and the endangering of lives of people.

The Flood Control District is a municipal corporation and political subdivision of the State of Arizona. We are governed by a Board of Directors which is also the Board of supervisors of Maricopa County.



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## Flood Control Advisory Board

The Flood Control Advisory Board advises the Board of Directors on flood control, water conservation, floodplain management, drainage, and related matters. It reviews planning, operations and maintenance of flood control facilities, and recommends an annual budget to the Board of Directors.

Advisory Board members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors to a five year term.



From Left:

Paul Cherrington, Ex Officio, Gilbert "Shag" Rogers, District One, Thomas Callow, Ex Officio, Melvin Martin, District Five, Mike Saager, District Two, Shirley Long, District Four, and Hemant Patel, District Three

## Board of Directors



*Don Stapley  
District Two*



*Fulton Brock  
District One*

## Chairman's Message

Forty years ago the State of Arizona determined that the best way to keep people safe from the ravages of stormwaters was to begin flood control districts in each county. Since then, the Flood Control District of Maricopa County has constructed many basins, channels and dams with the sole purpose of protecting our communities. These include the world-renown Indian Bend Wash, the Old Crosscut Canal, the Arizona Canal Diversion Channel and many others.

Today we look at flood control as more than a means of keeping people and possessions safe. We look at it as a method of improving our communities. The ugly concrete channels and dams that once were standard are now used as a last resort. We are using Nature's own washes and streams to convey water so that we do not disturb the environment and instead, allow residents to enjoy Arizona's beautiful open space.

It is my intent that we continue these conservation efforts in the future. This forward-thinking approach leaves our future generations with something of great value, **our land.**



*Andrew Kunasek, Chair  
District Three*



*Janice Brewer  
District Four*



*Mary-Rose Wilcox  
District Five*

Forty years ago, when the Arizona State Legislature determined that counties should accept responsibility for flood control in the state, Arizona was a much different place.

The population of the entire state was barely over 1 million residents.

Agriculture and mining were leading industries. Picture, if you will, a downtown Phoenix that still boasted cotton fields, orange groves and alfalfa plants. One-quarter of the current population of this state lived here in 1959. While flood control was imperative to restrain the waters that flooded the valley, it was easier then to route channels and to create basins. There was less infrastructure to get in the way.

## *Message from the Chief Engineer and General Manager*



Today, agriculture doesn't even make the top ten industries in the state, and mining doesn't hit the top five. We live in the fastest growing county in the country, with land in the Phoenix area getting gobbled up at the rate of an acre an hour (Residents, trying to gain control of the frantic pace, had two initiatives on last November's ballot geared to regulate the growth and preserve open space). While the mission of the Flood Control District is still to prevent stormwaters from harming people and possessions, predicting the path of development and planning for the impacts it will have on flooding in communities has become imperative to our success.

I am proud to say that we are preparing for the influx of people that will soon arrive. Our Watercourse and Area Drainage Master Plans look to the future to determine what communities will need twenty years from now, and indicate the channels, basins and dams required to protect residents. This makes sense. Cities can include these necessary elements in their budgets, parks, recreation plans and zoning ordinances. We can work with the communities in our county to help create the best possible living environment. We want to use our facilities for the greatest good. This means planning them so that residents can safely use them for recreation and relaxation when they are not conveying floodwater.

We continue to enforce and review floodplain regulations to determine whether we are protecting citizens and the environment with appropriate rules. We want to allow the fullest use of properties while still keeping the community safe.

We will continue to augment our technological resources, such as our ALERT center and our GIS department, so that we can protect the public with early warnings, teach them about flood safety on our web page, and help them determine whether they live in a floodplain.

As Maricopa County continues to grow and change, we must too. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities the next year has to offer and hope that we continue to bring about the kind of county that we all want to share.

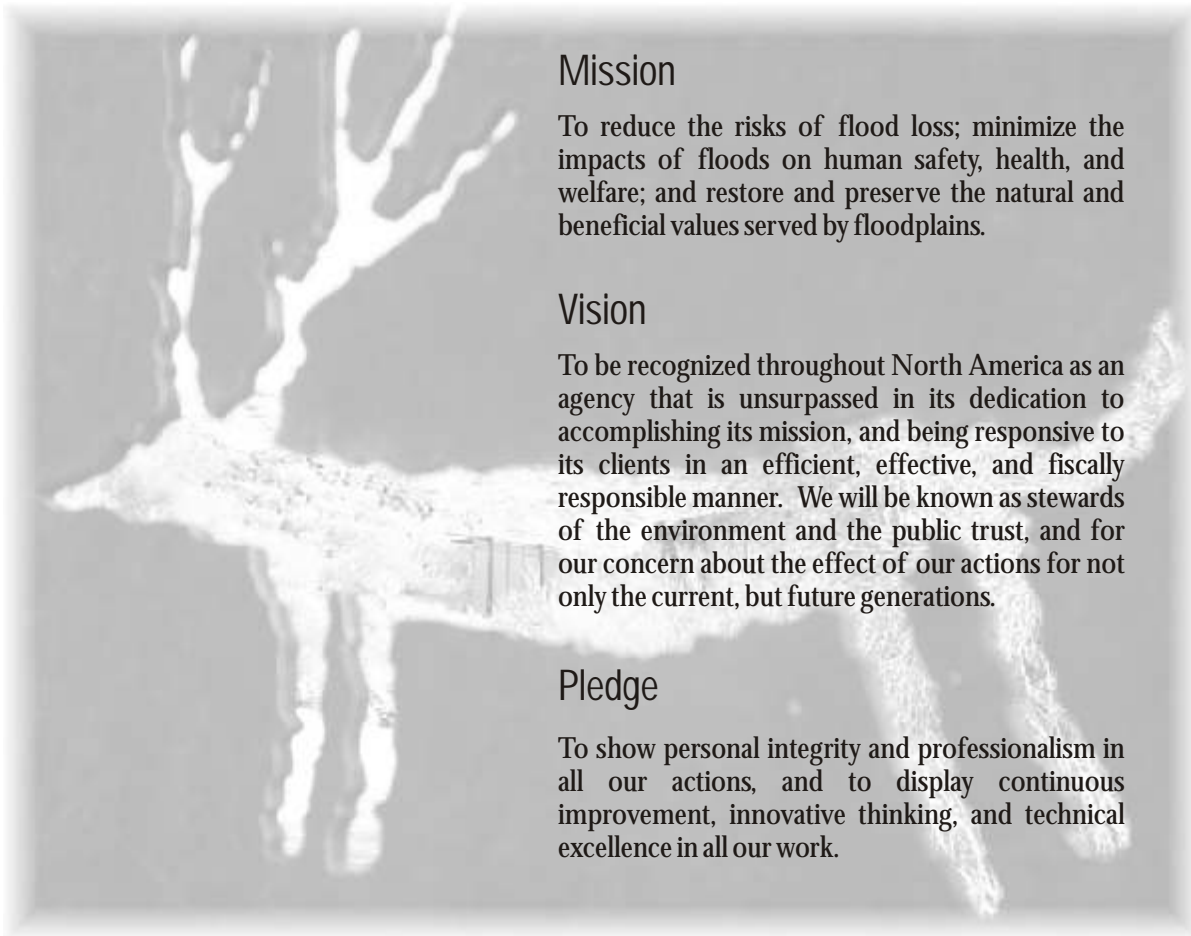


# Forty Years in the Desert

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County manages floodplains for an area that covers more than 9,000 square miles. The total number of Flood Control employees in the first year of operation was three staff members. The agency now employs more than 200 people and maintains over 70 flood control structures with 151,137 acres of water channels. The District is also responsible for 16 weather stations, 527 miles of access roads, nearly two million linear feet of fencing and 200 rain gages. Listed below are the significant flood control structures and the year of completion.

1967	Powerline Dam
1968	Powerline Floodway And Vineyard Dam
1969	Rittenhouse Dam
1973	Dreamy Draw Dam
1975	Buckeye Dam 1,2,and 3 Old Crosscut Canal Guadalupe Dam
1976	Sunset Dam Sunnycove Dam
1979	Spook Hill Dam
1980	Cave Buttes Dam
1981	Saddleback Dam And Diversion Channel
1982	Harquahala Dam And Floodway Channel
1983	Skunk Creek Channels And Levee
1984	Adobe Dam Signal Butte Floodway Channel
1985	Holly Acres Levee And Bank Stabilization New River Dam Indian Bend Wash
1987	Signal Butte Dam Pass Mountain Diversion Channel
1989	East Mesa Floodway Channel
1989	East Maricopa Floodway Channel and Guadalupe Channel
1993	The New River Channelization University Drive Basin
1994	The Arizona Canal Diversion Channel Colter Channel
1995	The Scatter Wash Channel (47th to 35th Avenues) Beardsley Road Regional Drainage System, New River Channel Improvements (Thunderbird Road to the Skunk Creek confluence) Salt River Channel
1996	Dysart Drain Improvements Upper East Fork Cave Creek Casandro Wash Dam and Outlet
1997	The Salt River Channel (Dobson Road to Country Club Road) Price Drain Maryvale Stadium Basin Tenth Street Wash Basins
1999	Reconstruction of the Old Cross Cut Canal





## Mission

To reduce the risks of flood loss; minimize the impacts of floods on human safety, health, and welfare; and restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains.

## Vision

To be recognized throughout North America as an agency that is unsurpassed in its dedication to accomplishing its mission, and being responsive to its clients in an efficient, effective, and fiscally responsible manner. We will be known as stewards of the environment and the public trust, and for our concern about the effect of our actions for not only the current, but future generations.

## Pledge

To show personal integrity and professionalism in all our actions, and to display continuous improvement, innovative thinking, and technical excellence in all our work.

## *Principal District staff*



### **Michael S. Ellegood, P.E.**

Chief Engineer and General Manager

### **David A. Brozovsky**

Flood Control Administrator

### **Edward A. Raleigh, P.E.**

Engineering Division Manager

### **Thomas J. LaMarche**

Information Technology Division Manager

### **George D. Lindop**

Operations and Maintenance Division Manager

### **Thomas D. Johnson, P.E.**

Planning and Project Management Division Manager

### **James L. Schwartzmann**

Public Works and Right-of-Way Land Division Manager

### **Dave R. Johnson**

Regulatory Division Manager

# A Commitment to our Customers

## Community Rating System

The Flood Control District's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program began in December 1970. Since then Maricopa County has adopted subdivision regulations, zoning ordinances and a system of building permit review.

### *Floodplain Management*

The Floodplain Management program involves delineation of 100-year floodplains in Maricopa county and the regulation of development within their boundaries. Enforcement involves on-site inspection of new construction and structural repairs to ensure compliance. The District's active floodplain management program is responsible for the current 20% reduction in flood insurance premiums in unincorporated areas of the county.

#### *Floodplain Management Activity*

9	Floodplain delineation studies were begun
3	Floodplain delineation studies were completed
249	Floodplain use permits/clearances were reviewed
3673	Phone requests for general information were handled
697	Walk-in customers were assisted
7186	Flood hazard information requests were handled
144	Flood hazard information notices were recorded

### *Drainage Administration*

The Drainage Administration program involves the review and inspection of drainage facilities to ensure that development will not adversely affect neighboring properties. Drainage Administration coordinates closely with other agencies to ensure that new development does not increase runoff, divert flows or back water onto other properties. The district also investigates reports of flooding and possible flood hazards reported by citizens.

#### *Drainage Administration Activity*

9916	Inspections conducted
157,235	Miles driven by inspectors
7560	Drainage clearances issued
616	Total plan reviews completed
273	Drainage complaints investigated

## Community Outreach

To provide better service to our clients, the Flood Control District participates in various trade shows and home improvement expos in the valley. This vehicle provides an excellent means of reaching our clients. The FCD has designed an educational program which is presented to Maricopa County schools, civic, and professional organizations. As part of this educational program, the Flood Control District participates in Valley Forward's Earthfest Environmental Expo held annually in April.

*Earthfest 2000*



**From 3-dimensional maps to our weather monitoring systems, school children learn about FCD's role in the environment at Earthfest.**

Part of our efforts of community outreach include our Garcia School Headstart Holiday Drive. The Flood Control District has adopted the preschool program for the last four years. Each year we have raised funds to provide one hundred preschoolers art and school supplies and a toy. The last two years we have had the fortune of raising enough money to include purchasing each child a school backpack.





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## *Financial Highlights*

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2000  
Preliminary And Unaudited

### Revenues

Flood Control Tax	\$43,992,461	61
Local Participation	16,651,641	23
Licenses & Permits	901,066	1
Interest Income	2,069,311	3
Land Sales And Rental	2,282,487	3
Miscellaneous	6,213,027	9
Total Revenue	72,109,992	100

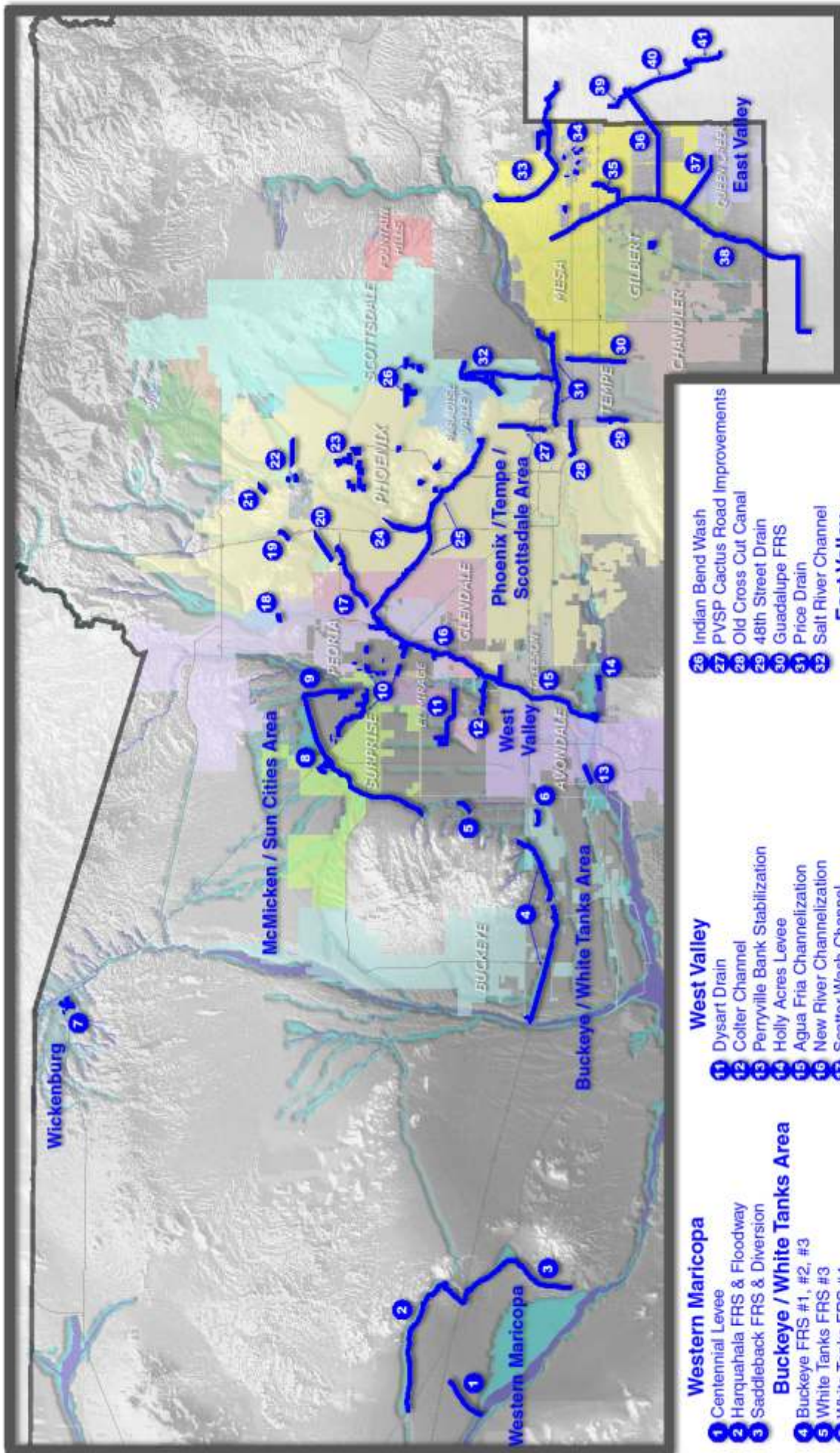
### Expenditure

Operating	20,446,631	25
Flood Control Capital Improvements	61,358,153	74
Vehicles And Equipment	1,067,860	1
Total Expenditures	82,872,644	100

Excess (deficiency) Of Revenues Over Expenditures	(10,762,651)
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Fund Balance July 1, 1999	36,055,216
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Fund Balance June 30, 2000	\$25,292,565
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### Western Maricopa

- 1 Centennial Levee
- 2 Harquahala FRS & Floodway
- 3 Saddleback FRS & Diversion

### Buckeye / White Tanks Area

- 4 Buckeye FRS #1, #2, #3
- 5 White Tanks FRS #3
- 6 White Tanks FRS #4

### Wickenburg

- 7 Sunset & Sunnycove Dams
- 8 Cassandra Wash Dam & Outlet

### McMicken / Sun Cities Area

- 8 McMicken Dam & Outlet Channel
- 9 El Mirage Drain
- 10 Sun City & Sun City West Drains

### West Valley

- 11 Dysart Drain
- 12 Colter Channel
- 13 Perryville Bank Stabilization
- 14 Holly Acres Levee
- 15 Agua Fria Channelization
- 16 New River Channelization
- 17 Scatter Wash Channel
- 18 New River Dam

### Phoenix/Tempe/Scottsdale Area

- 19 Skunk Creek Channel & Levee
- 20 Adobe Dam
- 21 Cave Creek Dam
- 22 Cave Buttes Dam & Levees
- 23 Upper East Fork Cave Creek
- 24 Cave Creek Channelization
- 25 Arizona Canal Diversion Channel (ACDC)

### East Valley

- 26 Indian Bend Wash
- 27 PVSP Cactus Road Improvements
- 28 Old Cross Cut Canal
- 29 48th Street Drain
- 30 Guadalupe FRS
- 31 Price Drain
- 32 Salt River Channel

### East Valley

- 33 Buckhorn-Mesa Structures
- 34 East Mesa Drains
- 35 Sossaman Channel & Basin
- 36 Powerline Floodway
- 37 Rittenhouse Rd Channel
- 38 East Maricopa Floodway (EMF)
- 39 Powerline Dam
- 40 Vineyard Dam
- 41 Rittenhouse Dam



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